

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: HUMAN SERVICES

DATE: JANUARY 23, 2014

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: OTHERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS FRASIER
GIRARD
SOKOL
WOOD
VANSELOW
BROCK
SEEBER

CHRISTIE SABO, DIRECTOR, OFFICE FOR THE AGING
CHRIS HUNSINGER, DIRECTOR, EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING ADMINISTRATION
SHARON SANO, SENIOR COUNSELOR, EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING
ADMINISTRATION
KEVIN B. GERAGHTY, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
JOAN SADY, CLERK OF THE BOARD
FRANK THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER
SUPERVISORS CONOVER
MCDEVITT
STROUGH
TAYLOR
WESTCOTT
DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*
SARAH MCLENITHAN, SECRETARY TO THE CLERK OF THE BOARD

Mrs. Frasier called the meeting of the Human Services Committee to order at 10:01 a.m.

Motion was made by Mrs. Wood, seconded by Mr. Girard and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the previous Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Chris Hunsinger, Director, Employment & Training Administration (ETA), who distributed copies of the agenda to the Committee members; a copy of which is on file with the minutes.

Mr. Hunsinger presented a request to amend the 2014 County Budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$55,421 to reflect the receipt of Trade Adjustment Act funding to reimburse for the training of eight dislocated workers.

Motion was made by Mrs. Wood, seconded by Mr. Girard and carried unanimously to approve the request to amend the 2014 County Budget as outlined above and forward same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

The next item on the agenda, Mr. Hunsinger advised, was a request for authorization for Sharon Sano and Noreene Tarantino to attend the 2014 New York Association of Training and Employment Professionals Youth Academy from March 24-26, 2014 in Albany, New York utilizing a County vehicle. He stated that the request included the fee for an overnight stay because it was less than paying the employees the overtime they would incur from traveling to Albany each day. Sharon Sano, Senior Counselor, ETA, added the conference started at 8:00 a.m. on both days and concluded at 6:30 p.m. on the first evening and 6:00 p.m. on the following day.

Motion was made by Mr. Vanselow, seconded by Mrs. Wood and carried unanimously to approve the request for authorization to attend a meeting or convention as outlined above. *A copy of the authorization to attend meeting or convention form is on file with the minutes.*

With regards to the recent increase in minimum wage, Mr. Hunsinger apprised the Federal Government was offering a youth minimum wage reimbursement credit that all businesses with

employees between the ages of sixteen and nineteen were eligible for. Mr. Vanselow questioned whether Municipalities could apply for the credit and Mr. Hunsinger replied in the negative. He explained that since Municipalities did not file income tax returns they were ineligible for the reimbursement.

Ms. Sano distributed copies of an overview of the Youth Programs provided by the Warren County ETA, which she reviewed in detail; *a copy of which is on file with the minutes*. She noted at one point the number of youth served had been approximately 200; however, she said, in 2013 only 67 youths served.

With regards to the youths served, Ms. Sano advised all youths in programs were income eligible. She stated year round and summer programming was offered, as well as high school equivalency diploma classes and individual work-site placements. She pointed out there was an active work crew that traveled throughout the County to assist with work projects.

Ms. Sano apprised the ETA was a member of the Saratoga/Warren/Washington Emerging Worker Council, as well as the Warren County Interagency Collaboration Committee. She encouraged anyone with questions about the Youth Programs to contact her.

In reference to the Federal Budget for 2014, Mr. Hunsinger advised he was pleased to announce that the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) was fully funded.

Mr. Vanselow asked how the transition was going from the test formerly known as the General Equivalency Diploma (GED) to the Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC) and Ms. Sano replied that she was unsure. She advised that the Conference she was attending in March would provide workshops and more up-to-date information on the new testing procedure. She stated the ETA was proceeding with the preparation classes and noted they had been inundated with calls inquiring about the test, as individuals were having difficulty obtaining employment if they did not have a high school diploma.

Mr. McDevitt advised he felt that it was an unfortunate decision that New York State had implemented the change, as he believed there were no viable issues that warranted such a change in the testing procedure. Ms. Sano concurred with Mr. McDevitt; however, she added, she felt New York State had implemented the change to align the test with the common core learning standards program that was recently implemented throughout New York State.

Mr. Girard questioned whether changes in technology had contributed to the modification in testing and Ms. Sano replied in the negative. She stated she felt the adjustment may have been implemented to discourage youth from dropping out of school.

Mr. Hunsinger apprised that the youth enrolled in ETA programs were generally not concerned with education, as their primary focus was on survival. Mr. Vanselow interjected that he felt an individuals prospects greatly improved once they obtained their high school diploma. Ms. Sano stated that there were many success stories of youths that had obtained their high school diplomas through the assistance of the ETA.

Mr. Vanselow queried whether trigonometry would be on the TASC and Ms. Sano replied she was unsure. She stated the TASC was being applied in stages. Mr. Hunsinger advised he felt New York State was not doing a good job in transmitting information with regards to TASC. Mr. Girard questioned whether Ms. Sano felt the GED process was functioning correctly and Ms. Sano replied

affirmatively. Mr. Girard apprised he felt the change was not necessary. Mrs. Frasier reiterated the foremost reason for the change seemed to be the common core learning standards program. Ms. Sano stated the common core learning standards program included skills that were necessary such as critical thinking and problem solving.

This concluded the ETA portion of the Human Services Committee meeting and privilege of the floor was extended to Christie Sabo, Director of the Office for the Aging (OFA), who distributed copies of the agenda to the Committee members; *a copy of which is on file with the minutes.*

Commencing the agenda review, Ms. Sabo requested to fill the vacant position of Nutrition Services Coordinator, Annual Salary of \$40,209, Employee No. 8626, due to retirement. She stated that authorization to fill the position was obtained in 2012 due to retirement; however, she said, at the time there were no viable candidates and the individual who retired had agreed to work on a part-time contractual basis. She said because the workload had become too large to manage on a part-time basis she felt it was necessary to request to fill the position with a full-time employee and she noted neither the full-time position or the required funding were included in the OFA Budget.

Motion was made by Mr. Sokol, seconded by Mr. Girard and carried unanimously to approve the filling of the vacant position as outlined above and to forward same to the Personnel Committee. *A copy of the Notice of Intent to Fill Vacant Position form is on file with the minutes.* **Note: Subsequent to the meeting it was determined that the Nutrition Services Coordinator position needed to be created within the OFA Budget and a transfer of funds was necessary to provide funding for the position. Copies of both revised request forms are on file with the minutes.**

Ms. Sabo requested to ratify her actions in applying to New York State Office for the Aging for the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) funding and authorize the acceptance of funding in the amount of \$17,264, for a term commencing September 30, 2013 and terminating September 29, 2014.

Motion was made by Mrs. Wood, seconded by Mr. Vanselow and carried unanimously to ratify the actions of the Director of the Office for the Aging as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 21, 2014 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Ms. Sabo presented a request to amend the 2014 County Budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$17,264 to reflect the receipt of MIPPA funding.

Motion was made by Mrs. Wood, seconded by Mr. Girard and carried unanimously to approve the request to amend the 2014 County Budget as outlined above and forward same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Ms. Sabo requested to enter into a new contract with the Greater Glens Falls Senior Citizens Center, Inc. commencing March 1, 2014 and terminating September 29, 2014 to provide for services under MIPPA/Aging and Disability Resource Center Program (ADRC) program.

Motion was made by Mrs. Wood, seconded by Mr. Girard and carried unanimously to authorize the contract with the Greater Glens Falls Senior Citizens Center, Inc. as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 21, 2014 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Ms. Sabo requested to enter into a new contract with William Lane Associates, LLC commencing March 1, 2014 and terminating September 29, 2014 to provide for services under MIPPA/ADRC program.

Motion was made by Mrs. Wood, seconded by Mr. Girard and carried unanimously to authorize the contract with William Lane Associates, LLC as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 21, 2014 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Ms. Sabo requested to reappoint voting, non-voting and elected members, of the 2014 Advisory Council; a listing of the appointees was included in the agenda packet.

Motion was made by Mr. Girard, seconded by Mr. Sokol and carried unanimously authorizing the appointments and reappointments to the 2014 OFA Advisory Council, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 21, 2014 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Ms. Sabo requested to amend the current agreement between the Warren County Department of Public Health, the Warren County Department of Social Services, the Hamilton County Department of Public Health and the Hamilton County Department of Social Services to include the additional participants and reflect the vendor name change from NYS Point of Entry to NY Connects.

Motion was made Mrs. Wood, seconded by Mr. Vanselow and carried unanimously to amend the current agreement as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 21, 2014 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

In reference to a request by Mrs. Frasier, Ms. Sabo provided a brief summary of the services provided by the OFA, the first of which was the home delivered meals program. She said the OFA had twelve meal sites, ten of which contained fully functional kitchens and two satellite sites throughout Warren and Hamilton Counties. She noted the Warren-Hamilton OFA was the only bi-County OFA in New York State. She stated that 157,568 meals had been served in 2013 and noted there was no waiting list for the program.

In regards to in-home services, Ms. Sabo advised the OFA administered the Expanded In-Home Services for the Elderly Program (EISEP), which was income based. She said there was a waiting list in Warren County for EISEP because it was such a prevalent program. She explained the service provided housekeeping services, as well as some personal care such as assistance with bathing and grooming.

Other services offered to senior citizens through the OFA, Ms. Sabo apprised, were legal services, nutritional counseling with a registered dietician, health promotion, health insurance counseling and administering Home Energy Assistance Applications (HEAP).

Ms. Seeber questioned whether there were any other agencies that provided services similar to EISEP for seniors on the waiting list and Ms. Sabo replied in the negative.

As there was no further business to come before the Committee, on motion made by Mrs. Wood and seconded by Mr. Sokol, Mrs. Frasier adjourned the meeting at 10:29 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah McLenithan, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board